

Proclamation on domestic violence

Whereas, preventing domestic violence is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

Whereas, domestic violence occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and don't know how to cope;

Whereas, the majority of domestic violence cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community;

Whereas, domestic violence can be reduced by making sure each service member and family has the support they need;

Whereas, domestic violence not only directly harms the primary victim, but also negatively impacts children who witness or hear the abusive behavior;

Whereas, all citizens should become involved in supporting their colleagues, neighbors and friends in utilizing resources to prevent domestic violence and seeking help if they are in an abusive relationship, whether they are the aggressor or the victim;

Whereas, effective domestic violence programs succeed because of partnerships created among leadership, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations and law enforcement agencies;

Whereas, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region is a unique part of the partnership; and

Whereas, we in the Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting

Region community have an obligation to become actively involved in prevention by supporting our Marines and their families to live and raise children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

Whereas, dedicated Family Advocacy Center staff have become actively involved in encouraging all to nurture their relationships with the goal to provide programs and services for our Marines and their families in an effort to prevent domestic violence; and

Now, therefore, Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region, Commanding General does hereby proclaim October 2008 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region, and call upon all Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region personnel and their families to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent domestic violence, thereby strengthening the Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region community.

Given under my hand,



A. SALINAS
Brigadier General
U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General

President Bush signs FY09 DoD budget into law

BY DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

President George W. Bush signed the fiscal year 2009 defense budget into law Oct. 14, authorizing a \$512 billion base to support military readiness, as well as \$66 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The law also authorizes a 3.9 percent pay raise for servicemembers, to take effect Jan. 1. This represents a one-half-percent increase over Pres. Bush's initial request.

Pres. Bush signed the bill without issuing a public statement, before leaving the White House to meet with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

The budget represents Pres. Bush's priorities and sustains U.S. commitment to the war on terror, increasing ground combat capabilities, improving force readiness, developing combat capabilities needed to meet future threats, and improving the quality of life for servicemembers and their families, defense officials said.

It "provides the resources necessary to maintain an agile, highly trained and lethal fighting force, increase Army and Marine Corps end strength and sustain the United States' technological advantage over current and potential enemies," Defense Secretary Gates said as Pres. Bush announced the budget request in February.

The 2009 budget provides more than \$20 billion to grow the force and provide the equipment, training and facilities these troops will need. The new budget will fund efforts to increase the active Army to 547,400 soldiers and the Marine Corps' strength to 202,000. It also includes continued funding for the Army's transformation from a division-centric force to a more flexible modular force with increased mobility and combat power.

The new budget will strengthen the National Guard and reserves, providing \$49 billion to recruit, train, equip and sustain units that provide critical military capabilities both at home and abroad.

It also provides funds needed to recapitalize aging aircraft fleets, providing \$17.3 billion to modernize tactical fleets and develop and procure fighter aircraft for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

Quality-of-life issues play prominently in the new budget. In addition to the pay raise, the law provides more than \$41 billion for the military health system. It also bars some participants in the military's health care network from raising their fees.

The law also provides funds to continue action on recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. Officials said the funds will ensure world-class health and rehabilitative care to warfighters who are wounded, ill or injured in service to the nation.



Walking to raise awareness of cancer and violence prevention

About 200 men, women and children participated in the depot's third annual Make a Difference Day Walk Oct. 18. The walk raised awareness of breast cancer prevention and domestic violence in the military community. The 1-mile loop from the MCRD Mall, along Shepherd Memorial Drill Field and back, symbolically took the shape of the famous pink ribbon, established as the symbol of fighting against breast cancer, and the purple ribbon, a symbol for domestic violence awareness. This year's walk was patterned after the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer held in San Diego last year, said Michelle R. Nail, health promotion coordinator, Semper Fit, which featured information boards with statistics of breast cancer posted throughout the course. The mall had a variety of health information booths as well as displays such as the "Clothesline Project," which featured T-shirts on a clothesline with written notes from domestic abuse survivors, sponsored by the Women's Resource Center of San Diego. The center also placed several cardboard silhouettes throughout the Mall, depicting people who died from domestic abuse, titled "Silent Witnesses." October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. *Gunnery Sgt. Laura Gawecky/USMC Public Affairs Office*



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Remembering a hero of Marine Corps past

BY CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron staff

The streets of the depot are filled with Marine Corps history. At almost every turn or intersection stands a building of Spanish Colonial architecture dedicated to a hero of the Naval services.

Puckett Hall, the headquarters for the “Unsung Heroes” of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, is one building that honors a former top sergeant major.

Dedicated to the 6th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Clinton A. Puckett, the building was once a guard-house and telephone exchange.

Inside the main doors of the building, off Belleau Ave., is a display featuring Puckett’s accomplishments and career information.

“Puckett’s impact on the Marine Corps was very significant in the fact that he was widely known for being one of the first sergeants major to solicit feedback from junior Marines,” said Ellen Guillemette, archivist, MCRD San Diego Command Museum. “It’s common to see his legacy in action today.”

Puckett carried several nicknames throughout his career. He was called “The Cowboy with a Thirst for Knowledge” since he grew up uneducated on a ranch, but used his service in the Marine Corps to soak up all knowledge he could. He was also called “The Enlisted Man’s General,” as most enlisted Marines held a strong loyal connection to Puckett, said Guillemette.

Puckett’s Marine Corps career began on the depot in 1944, where he enlisted as a rifleman. Within one year after signing up, Puckett stormed the black sandy beaches of Iwo Jima where he witnessed the American flag raising on Mount Suribachi.

Six years later as a staff sergeant, Puckett deployed with Company G, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, during combat operations in Korea, where he earned the military’s second highest honor, the Navy Cross.

Puckett and his unit were patrolling enemy-held territory when they were ambushed from opposite directions by enemy forces. Under heavy communist gunfire, Puckett fired back while his teammates ran to cover. Puckett killed four enemy soldiers while defending his men but was wounded in his hand by grenade shrapnel.

Upon returning to his base camp, Puckett realized that three of his Marines were missing. He organized a small search and rescue team, and he headed back into enemy held territory.

After fending off another enemy ambush, he found his Marines — two of which were seriously wounded — and returned them to safety. Puckett was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions that day.

Puckett was also known for his contribution to the Combined Action Platoons in Vietnam. These platoons lived with and trained the local South Vietnamese defense forces. The program proved to be successful in accomplishing its mission.

Puckett served as the sergeant major of the Marine Corps from Feb. 1, 1973 until retirement May 1975.

“Marines like Sgt. Maj. Puckett inspire me,” said Cpl. Jorge Pinon, administration clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion. “When I see veteran Marines, I am reminded why I joined. We follow their footsteps today in tradition and honor.”



Sgt. Maj. Clinton A. Puckett was the 6th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. USMC Photo

BRIEFS

Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign is an annual workplace charity campaign that supports eligible non-profit organizations to provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. MCRD military and civilian workers who wish to donate should see their organizational section leaders for forms and instructions. Call the depot representative, Maj. Michael Gervasoni, at (619) 524-8805 for more information.

Wounded Marine career orientation day

The Wounded Marine Careers Foundation is looking for transitioning and discharged disabled veterans of all services to participate in a training program that qualifies graduates to work in the entertainment industry.

Interested service members should contact Jeffrey Galloway, admissions officer, for more information at (858) 974-8134 or by e-mail at jeffrey@woundedmarinecareers.org. More information on the Wounded Marine Careers Foundation may be found at: www.woundedmarinecareers.org.

Retired Military Personnel Seminar & Resource Fair

Navy Region Southwest will host a Retired Military Personnel Seminar & Resource Fair Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Historic Liberty Station’s The Rock Academy, 2277 Rosecrans St. The event is free and open to military retirees and service members and their families. Speakers include representatives from Navy Region Southwest, Defense Finance and Accounting Services, TRIWEST/TRICARE for LIFE and a special guest presentation on wellness, featuring information regarding medical entitlements, veteran’s services, legislation, social security administration and other issues affecting retired personnel, their families and surviving spouses. To register or for more information, call (619) 556-8987, fax (619) 556-7413 or e-mail cnrswrso@navy.mil.

Veteran’s Day celebration

The Command Museum will host a Veterans’ Day open house Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Turkey Trot 3-mile Fun Run and Walk

MCCS will host a free Turkey Trot 3-mile Fun Run and Walk Nov. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The event is open to all military members, DoD, and authorized civilians and their families. Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. Finishers receive a T-shirt. The event is in conjunction with the Soles 4 Souls Shoe Drive. Participants are encouraged to bring gently worn shoes. For more information, call Kelley Sitar at (619) 524-5655.

SEND BRIEFS TO:

MCRDSD-PAO.fct@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Be aware: California wildfires can trigger floods

COMPILED BY MCRD SAN DIEGO
from FEMA and US Geological Survey

Wildland fires are inevitable in California. The expansion of human development into undeveloped areas means wildfires can adversely affect lives and property, as can the flooding and landslides that occur in the aftermath of the fires.

Post-fire landslide hazards include fast-moving, highly destructive debris flows that may occur in the years following wildfires in response to heavy rains.

Post-fire debris flows can occur with little warning. Flows can cause avalanche like damage in their path. They strip vegetation, block drainage, damage buildings and endanger human life.

Flash floods can develop in minutes without visible signs of rain. Flash floods can carry rocks, mud, and other debris and can sweep away anything in the way of the torrent.

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live.

To prepare for a flood

- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install “check valves” in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.

After a flood

- Listen for news reports on the safety of the water supply.
- Avoid floodwaters — water may be contaminated. The water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Beware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of buildings surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.

Some things to remember

- Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. Barricades have been placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road go another way.
- Listen to the radio for news about what to do, where to go and places to avoid.
- Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. Help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.

If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded

- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged.
- Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Flood debris may hide hazards.
- Play it safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can occur. Listen for local warnings and information. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, get out immediately and climb to higher ground.

Getting help

- The American Red Cross can help you by providing a voucher to buy new clothing, groceries, essential medications, bedding, essential furnishings and other items to meet emergency needs. Listen to the radio to find out where to go for assistance, or look up American Red Cross in the phone book and call.
- The Red Cross can provide you with a cleanup kit: mop, broom, bucket and cleaning supplies.
- Contact your insurance agent for claims.
- Listen to your radio for information on assistance from state or federal government, or other organizations.
- If you hire cleanup or repair contractors, be sure they are qualified to do the job. Be wary of people who drive through neighborhoods offering help in cleaning up or repairing your home. Check their references.

Coaching legend delivers leadership message to Des Moines recruiters

BY CPL. BRYAN A. PETERSON
RS Des Moines, Iowa

“Be more concerned with character than reputation, because your character is what you really are and your reputation is merely what others think you are.”
John Wooden, college basketball hall of fame coach.

He may not have penned these words, but Dr. Tom Osborne says he has lived by them throughout his life as a college football hall-of-fame coach who won three national championships, a National Football League player, a Nebraska Congressman, an Army National Guardsman, and now the University of Nebraska athletic director.

Conveying how these words could even make Marine recruiters better leaders was Osborne’s task Sept. 23 as he huddled with 30 Marines from Recruiting Station Des Moines standing tall in the Cornhusker’s athletics department as if a general just stepped on deck.

Osborne told the Marines that a true leader has to be honest, have great character and be consistent.

“In my 25 years as head coach, we won 84 percent of our games,” said the fifth all-time winningest college football coach. “The reason was (that) we were consistent with our players. We never promised them anything; only (offered) the chance to prove themselves.”

Osborne spent most of his time speaking on two types of leadership: transactional and transformational. Transactional is a cause and effect style, while transformational requires a leader to be the role model.

“Both types of leadership work,” Osborne said. “With (transactional), you can see where a (person) stands, provide guidance to fix the

problem and then give praise or punishment (depending on the outcome). This happens all the time in the Marines, I am sure. You get an award for doing well, and you get yelled at for doing something wrong.

Alternately, transformational leadership is where trust can be established, he said.

“The Marine who is consistently honest and a genuinely caring person will garner respect and honesty from anyone following him,” Osborne said.

Staff Sgt. Luke S. Telford, an officer selection assistant with Officer Selection Team

Lincoln, said Osborne’s style of leadership can work anywhere.

“He’s absolutely right,” Telford said. “If anyone looks at this guy’s coaching record, they see consistency. He’s just a natural leader. A lot of coaches try to emulate him

and his leadership doctrine because it just works. All of us got a glimpse of the inner workings of a man who has taught and led his whole life. Today was truly amazing.”

Recruiting Station Des Moines commanding

officer, Maj. Sean Quinlan, sought this opportunity with Osborne to reward his recruiters for a job well done during the past fiscal year.

“These guys work until 10 p.m. or even later, because this job is tough,” Quinlan said. “My hat is off to the

efforts and sacrifices of these Marines. Most of the recruiters are sports fans and the ones who work in Nebraska are Cornhuskers fans.”

When the Marines gave Osborne a standing ova-

tion after he concluded his remarks, Osborne immediately responded with praise for them.

“I have nothing but respect for all that the Marines do,” Osborne reciprocated. “My guys wouldn’t be out there all these years if it weren’t for people like the Marines. They are sacrificing their time as recruiters away from their families and even sometimes their lives in combat for others (back home) who they will never meet. They have the courage to do that because they love this country and its way of life. I am honored today to be in the Marines’ presence.”

“I have nothing but respect for all that Marines do,” Osborne said. “I am honored today to be in the Marines’ presence.”



Dr. Tom Osborne talks about his father’s service in World War II after receiving a gift dedicated to his father from the Recruiting Station Des Moines Marines Sept. 23 at the University of Nebraska Athletics Department. Osborne spoke to the Marines about leadership and its qualities. Osborne, the long-time coach for the university’s storied football program, now serves as the university’s athletics director. U.S. Marine photo by Cpl. Bryan A. Peterson

VOTING INFORMATION

Units are required to conduct training for Marines and their families. Each command has a unit voting assistance officer who can answer questions concerning voting.

Unit Voting Assistance Officers

Headquarters and Service Battalion:	Capt. David J. Cote	(619) 524-1980
Recruit Training Regiment:	Capt. James E. Peoples	(619) 524-1775
Weapons and Field Training Battalion:	CWO2 Jasin A. Wilburn	(760) 763-1278
12th Marine Corps District:	Capt. Timothy A. Sparks	(619) 542-5556



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Pfc. Oliver C. Heath, Platoon 3244, Company L, sheds a tear during the Emblem Ceremony at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oct. 16. marks the end of the 12 weeks of recruit training and is the first time they are called Marines. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*



Company L recruits return from their Reaper hike during the Crucible to be awarded their emblems. The Crucible is a 54-hour-long training exercise designed to test what recruits have learned during 12 weeks of training.

Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron

Recruits come through the Cru

BY CPL. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

The culmination of the 12 weeks of Marine Corps recruit training is the Crucible: a 54-hour-long training event in which the recruits negotiate several scenarios and obstacles, putting all the skills they have learned to the test. The Crucible marks the end of their training time as recruits, and the beginning for them as Marines.

Still tired and dirty from the demanding events of the past three days, the young men and their drill instructors gather on the parade deck for the Emblem Ceremony at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oct. 16.

The ceremony takes place immediately after the Crucible. This is where the recruits are awarded the eagle, globe and anchor — the symbol of the Corps, and are first called Marines.

The Marine Corps emblem was adopted in its present form in 1868 under the 7th Commandant

of the Marine Co it derives partial Continental Mar rines and is usual “Semper Fidelis,” Faithful.”

The original e eagle found worl American bald ea blem. The eagle s and holds in its b Semper Fidelis, th omitted from un

An anchor fo globe and points that the anchors

The eagle stan fies worldwide se fies Naval traditi

During the ce have trained the eagle, globe and a



A sign displaying the Marine Corps emblem and slogan, overlooks the parade deck at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*



A felt-lined wooden box is used to hold the *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*



The event A new Marine holds the Marine Corps emblem also known as the eagle, globe and anchor. Recruits work hard to earn the emblem and the right to be called Marine. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*

cible, earn eagle, globe and anchor

corps, Brig. Gen. Jacob Zeilin, and y from ornaments worn by the ines and the British Royal Ma- lly topped with a ribbon reading the Latin phrase meaning “Always

emblem’s eagle was the crested dwide, but was later changed to the eagle that appears in the current em- stands on the Western Hemisphere eak a scroll bearing the motto hough the scroll is sometimes iform insignia. uled with rope stands behind the to the left except when paired so face each other.

ds for the nation, the globe signi- rvice, and the fouled anchor signi- on.

emony, the drill instructors who recruits awards each recruit the anchor—along with the two words

a recruit has waited for what seems like an eternity to hear, “Congratulations, Marine.”

“When my drill instructor gave me my eagle, globe and anchor, it hit me that I accomplished something huge,” said Pvt. Michael Sullivan, Platoon 3246, Company L. “I was so proud, I began to cry.”

For many recruits, receiving the emblem is an emotional experience.

“I cried at first,” said Pvt. Kenneth Priest, Platoon 3242, Company L. “I am proud of what I have accomplished. I am a Marine now!”

Receiving the emblem signifies that the recruits have earned a place in the Marine Corps legacy. They now stand side by side with their drill instructors as Marines.

“The Emblem Ceremony is more symbolic in nature than anything else,” said Sgt. Christopher Thaxton, drill instructor, Platoon 3247, Company L. “By this time the transformation into Marine has already been made; the recruits just don’t realize it yet. Once we give them their emblem it really sets in, and they realize that all their hard work has paid off.”



During the Emblem Ceremony, drill instructors present each new Marine with an eagle, globe and anchor insignia. *Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron*



Marine Corps insignia that the new Marines will receive during the Emblem Ceremony.

Decision to join the Corps based on experience

BY LANCE CPL. PAUL MATTHEW BROWN
Chevron staff

After growing up in both the United States and Iraq, serving in the Department of Defense for three tours in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and graduating from a university, the decision to become a Marine came easy for Pfc. Baddr H. Alabbas, Platoon 3243, Company L. Shortly after Alabbas was born in Lafayette, Ind., his father was killed while on a two-week trip to Iraq, negotiating the sale of their property.

“While growing up, my family and I would still visit Iraq to see the rest of our family,” said Alabbas. “At that time, the relationship between the U.S. and Iraq was still good, and we didn’t have anything to worry about.”

In the summer of 1990, the Alabbas family visited Iraq again and on Aug. 2, they experienced something they would never forget.

“We woke up that morning, and we saw that Sadam Hussein had taken over Kuwait, as well as taken hostages,” said Alabbas. “That really freaked us out because we were all U.S. citizens and everyone around us knew that, and we really didn’t know what to do.”

Alabbas and his family had to keep a low profile as the conflict continued to escalate in Iraq.

“I was nine or 10 when the Gulf War started, and I kept thinking I was going to get killed,” Alabbas said.

After the Gulf War, he and his family were even more determined to get out of Iraq; however, that would prove to be a difficult task.

“Leaving Iraq was very hard because they shut all the airports down, so we had to travel by road to Jordan and leave the country from there,” Alabbas said.

Laws were passed restricting Iraqis who were leaving the country from bringing more

than \$50 with them and forcing those who were college graduates, like Alabbas’ mother, to leave some kind of collateral, such as a house, to guarantee their return, Alabbas explained.

During the inspection prior to entering Jordan, Alabbas and his mother had to separate because she did not have a green card. She would not let him stay, so Alabbas left for America to live with his sister.

“I lived in a farming community, raised horses, graduated high school and went to college in Indiana,” Alabbas said.

In his second year in college, the War on Terror was becoming more prominent. It was then when Alabbas heard his calling, literally.

“The Department of Defense kept calling me, asking if I spoke Arabic and if I knew about Iraq,” said Alabbas. “It kind of concerned me at first, but I came to find out that they were just trying to recruit me for my knowledge of the area.”

At the time, Alabbas already knew he wanted to be a Marine, but thought the DoD route would be a faster way for him to get involved in support of the War on Terror.

After being processed through DoD, Alabbas was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., along with 50 other translators.

“Two U.S. Army Special Forces noncommissioned officers came into the room and asked us who wanted to be a translator for the Special Forces,” said Alabbas. “Of course everyone raised their hand, but many did not qualify for it.”

Fitness tests and marksmanship classes followed, due to the additional combat status the translators would need to qualify for, added Alabbas.

“We also got a little taste of what the Special Forces soldiers go through by doing one day of SERE (Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape) School,” said Alabbas.

After meeting the criteria to work as a translator, Alabbas joined DoD. He spent three tours in Iraq as a combat status DoD Translator and participated in many Special Forces raids and battles.

One raid stood out in particular to Alabbas. Several thousand Kurd militia men, who were assisting the unit Alabbas was assigned to, charged an Al Qaida-held hill in northern Iraq. Although they took a lot of casualties, the Kurds demonstrated an amazing devotion to their cause, said Alabbas.

He was also part of the raid where Saddam Hussein was captured.

“We took him to one of his old palaces, ironically, and he started babbling about how we were the infidel and how he was a great leader,” Alabbas said. “I then spoke to Saddam in Iraqi Arabic, letting him know that ‘I’m an Iraqi, and I am the one handcuffing you.’”

This was a personal triumph

for Alabbas, not because they had finally found Saddam, but because he would finally see justice for the man who was responsible for the killing of his father.

“My father was a nuclear physicist in charge of the nuclear physics department at Purdue University (West Lafayette, Ind.) and also worked for NASA,” said Alabbas. “I came to find out later that Saddam insisted my father work for him, but my father refused; he was then killed.”

During his tours in Iraq, Alabbas witnessed many things, but what stuck out to him was the respect that other service members showed for Marines. This attributed greatly to Alabbas’ decision to become a Marine.

After his third tour, Alabbas thought it was time that he came home. He finished college and received his Bachelors of Science in Industrial Engineering and an associates in computer technology software development at

Purdue, but even though he had attained all these things, Alabbas still felt like there was something missing.

“People used to ask me what branch I served in when I would talk about my experiences, but I never had one to claim,” Alabbas said. “It was finally time for me to become a Marine—the best and most respected of all forces.”

Alabbas didn’t wait any longer and drove to his nearest recruiting office to start the paperwork.

“He was our guide for a time,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Rodriguez, senior drill instructor, Platoon 3243, Company L. “After being guide for a week, Alabbas decided to step down from the position because he thought he could better help his platoon mates as the scribe, dealing with fellow recruits on a personal level, teaching them why they were there and motivating them.”

Rodriguez also said Alabbas is very determined and knows what he wants.



Pfc. Baddr H. Alabbas, Platoon 3243, Company L, was born in Indiana but grew up in Iraq. He joined the Corps after working as an Arabic translator for the Department of Defense and finishing college.
Lance Cpl. Paul Matthew Brown/Chevron

Brig. Gen. James B. Laster

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Brig. Gen. James B. Laster is a native of Dallas, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1978 through the Platoon Leaders Class Program. Upon completion of The Basic School, he reported to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, where he served as a rifle platoon commander and rifle company executive officer. In January 1981, Brig. Gen. Laster transferred to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., where he served as a platoon commander, company executive officer, and White House social aide.

In November 1983, Brig. Gen. Laster was assigned to 7th Marines and served two years as a rifle company commander; one year as weapons company commander in 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines and completed his tour as the regimental assistant operations officer.

In December 1987, he attended the Army Airborne School and Advanced Infantry Officers Course at Fort Benning, Ga., and was a distinguished graduate.

Brig. Gen. Laster transferred to the 25th Marines in September 1989 and assumed duties as the inspector-instructor for Company A, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, and served as the inspector-instructor operations officer for 25th Marine Regiment. In May 1991, Brig. Gen. Laster was assigned as aide-de-camp to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. C. E. Mundy, Jr. He subsequently attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College and graduated with distinction.

Returning to the Fleet Marine Force in June 1993, he commanded Headquarters and Service Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group. In January 1995, he assumed duties as executive officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, and deployed to the Arabian Gulf with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this assignment, he also served as commander, Maritime Special Purpose Force, 15th MEU. In August 1996, he assumed duties as the operations officer of the 15th MEU, and deployed again to the Arabian

Gulf/Central Command area of responsibility. In November 1997, he was assigned as deputy of assistant chief of staff/Command Inspector General and inspector, 1st Marine Division. During January to March 1998, Brig. Gen. Laster deployed to Africa as the operations officer of Joint Task Force Kenya in support of Operation Noble Response, humanitarian relief operations in Kenya. Brig. Gen. Laster assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines in May 1998 and moved the battalion to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. He relinquished command in June 2000 and was transferred to the National War College.

Upon completion of the National War College, he was assigned to the Joint Staff as chief of war plans. Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, he assumed duties in the Joint Staff operations officer as assistant chief, Future Operations Group. From 2003 to 2005, Brig. Gen. Laster commanded The Basic School, and then assumed duties as chief of staff, Training and Education Command.

In May 2006, Brig. Gen. Laster took

command of TECOM where he served for two years. In May 2008, he assumed command of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and Eastern Recruiting Region.

Brig. Gen. Laster is a graduate of New Mexico Military Institute and Southwest Texas State University. He holds a Master of Science degree in National Strategy from the National War College.





Platoon 3247
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. E. Ramos III
San Antonio
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. J. Gallegos



Platoon 3241
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. K. E. Hoyer
Centennial, Colo.
Recruited by
Sgt. T. C. Voeller



Platoon 3242
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. T. L. Isaac
Graham, Wash.
Recruited by
Sgt. A. Santos



Platoon 3243
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. S. T. Collins
New Brighton, Minn.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. C. C. Collins



Platoon 3244
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. R. W. Malcolm
Anaheim, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. Garcia



Platoon 3245
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. F. J. Davila
Chicago
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. L. Castilla Jr.



Platoon 3246
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. S. M. Marett Jr.
Houston
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. S. L. Kitigawa



Platoon 3248
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. D. A. Ramirez
Fontana, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. V. A. Leon



Platoon 3247
HIGH SHOOTER (331)
Lance Cpl. W. Marx
Phoenix
Marksanship Instructor
Sgt. D. R. Armstrong



Platoon 3247
HIGH PFT (300)
Lance Cpl. E. Ramos III
San Antonio
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. J. Gallegos

LIMA COMPANY

3RD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. J. S. Meade
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. T. W. Petersen
Chaplain
Lt. R. W. Peters III, USN
Battalion Drill Master
Gunnery Sgt. D. K. Ellington

COMPANY L

Commanding Officer
Capt. G. M. Colbert
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. R. L. Moore

SERIES 3241

Series Commander
Capt. P. M. Haggerty
Chief Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. S. J. Henry

PLATOON 3241

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. S. Berkoz
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. Chavez
Staff Sgt. R. A. DeLeon

Pvt. D. L. Abel
Pvt. S. J. Ackley
Pvt. N. W. Ashworth
Pvt. J. L. Atherton
*Pfc. G. A. Babb
Pvt. D. K. Basbas
Pvt. J. A. Bausch
Pvt. K. L. Baxter
Pfc. J. W. Betancourt
Pvt. C. W. Bippus
Pvt. N. P. Bouchard
Pvt. K. D. Branstetter Jr.
Pvt. S. E. Brons
Pvt. M. C. Brown
Pvt. C. D. Bruderer
Pvt. J. L. Buckmaster
Pfc. R. J. Budge
Pfc. R. N. Burns
Pvt. P. G. Campbell
Pvt. L. A. Cano
Pvt. J. A. Carnes
Pvt. I. E. Castillo
Pfc. M. A. Castleberry
Pvt. A. S. Cravalho
Pfc. J. D. Crawford
Pvt. E. E. Deakle
Pfc. B. J. Denning
Pvt. K. T. Donald
Pvt. J. Edmondson
Pfc. A. J. Fellows
Pfc. C. D. Fox
Pvt. C. M. Galvan
Pvt. J. M. Galvan
Pvt. F. R. Garcia
Pvt. J. D. Gardner
Pfc. J. M. Gaucin
Pvt. A. D. Gibbins
Pvt. J. E. Greving
Pvt. C. L. Haggerty
Pfc. T. J. Harper
Pfc. E. A. Havlik
Pvt. K. R. Hawk
Pvt. J. A.
Hernandez-Saavedra
Pfc. B. M. Herr
Pfc. D. J. Hodges
Pfc. R. J. Hodges
Pvt. P. M. Hogge
*Pfc. K. E. Hoyer
Pfc. Z. S. Hughes
*Pfc. K. R. Jackson
Pfc. C. A. Jimenez Jr.
Pvt. B. C. Johnson
Pvt. D. J. Kampa
Pvt. T. J. Kath
Pvt. N. A. Kijowsky
Pfc. G. S. Kirkley
Pvt. P. J. Kwiatkowski

*Pfc. T. J. Lang
Pvt. S. D. Langen
Pvt. C. M. Lopez
Pvt. S. R. Lopez
Pvt. C. N. Lor
Pfc. L. T. Ly
Pvt. C. A. Lynam
Pvt. P. D. Maley
Pvt. E. J. Martinez
*Pfc. J. M. McMahon
*Pfc. J. Munoz
Pfc. D. E. Petersohn
Pvt. C. A. Roe
Pfc. K. D. Rojas
Pvt. M. L. Simili
Pfc. M. R. Smith
Pvt. E. L. Vandusen Jr.
Pvt. J. B. Watkins

PLATOON 3242

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. E. K. Kaaihue
Drill Instructors
Sgt. C. T. Stewart
Sgt. J. L. Taylor

Pvt. L. Acosta-Lozada
*Pfc. O. E. Aguilar Jr.
Pvt. D. B. Allen
Pvt. K. M. Anderson
*Pfc. A. J. Arcieri
Pvt. J. W. Ashbery
Pvt. R. G. Aubrey
Pfc. T. S. Azevedo
Pfc. A. T. Balczewski
Pvt. J. E. Balderas-Miranda
Pfc. N. J. Bardsley
Pvt. K. T. Beadnell
Pvt. C. E. Bell
Pfc. R. M. Boos
Pvt. T. M. Borovic
Pfc. J. D. Britton
Pvt. B. B. Brown
Pvt. J. T. Burleson
Pvt. D. K. Butler
Pfc. C. R. Cantu
Pvt. L. Carlisle III
Pfc. C. E. Carter
Pfc. M. A. Christianer
Pvt. L. A. Cano
Pfc. T. M. Cox
Pvt. A. H. Dahlke
Pvt. S. V. Davis
Pvt. C. S. Davison
Pvt. N. J. DeChaine
Pvt. R. Denney IV
Pvt. C. R. Devrou
Pvt. Z. W. Dial
Pvt. T. J. Disch Jr.
Pvt. R. W. Donelson
Pvt. J. D. Downing
Pfc. A. K. Ferencik
Pfc. S. Florez Jr.
Pvt. J. W. Forston
Pfc. K. P. Gadsby
Pvt. R. M. Greenwood
Pfc. J. E. Grover
Pfc. M. A. Guzman
Pvt. T. L. Hakanson
Pfc. N. D. Hasson
Pvt. J. Hayes Jr.
Pvt. J. D. Healy
Pvt. D. Hernandez
Pvt. J. R. Hernandez
Pfc. J. Hernandez Jr
Pfc. J. D. Hicks
Pfc. R. W. Hunt
Pfc. H. T. Huynh
*Pfc. T. L. Isaac
Pvt. A. P. Jacobsen
Pvt. C. A. Jansen
Pvt. A. M. Johnson
Pvt. W. J. Kapphan
Pvt. K. R. Kiesow
Pvt. J. L. Ledesma III
Pvt. Z. A. Lewison
Pvt. S. P. Lewis
*Pfc. A. M. Ligon

Pvt. G. A. Lopez
Pfc. K. D. Lujan
Pvt. S. P. McEachern
*Pfc. W. A. McGwier III
Pvt. S. A. Melanio
Pfc. A. D. Messick
Pfc. B. D. Moran
Pfc. T. N. Nguyen
Pfc. S. H. O'Bannon
Pvt. S. J. Rivera
Pvt. C. P. Roberts
Pfc. V. Sandoval IV
*Pfc. N. Villarreal
Pvt. J. A. White

PLATOON 3243

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. J. Rodriguez
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. T. A. Bachman
Staff Sgt. T. A. Daniel

Pfc. B. H. Alabbas
Pvt. S. P. Aldridge
Pvt. E. E. Allen
Pvt. E. M. Alvarez
*Pfc. J. L. Anderson
Pvt. M. Austin
Pfc. E. Baldwin-DePuy
*Pfc. J. E. Burt
Pvt. J. P. Barr
Pvt. J. T. Beals Jr.
Pfc. E. A. Bohnenkamp
Pvt. R. D. Browne II
Pfc. R. C. Bryner
Pfc. A. M. Cantrell
*Pfc. D. A. Catelli
Pvt. N. M. Choske
*Pfc. C. D. Clark
*Pfc. K. C. Click
*Pfc. S. T. Collins
Pvt. T. W. Corrier
Pvt. J. Cruz
Pfc. M. J. Daniels
Pvt. I. L. Davis
Pvt. J. M. Delgado
Pvt. C. M. De Penning
Pvt. J. Donkhong
Pvt. K. J. Douangmala
Pvt. V. C. Douglas-Austin Jr.
Pvt. Z. Drake
Pfc. B. G. Ezola
Pvt. M. A. Fabela
Pvt. M. D. Fletcher
Pfc. B. D. Foust
Pvt. B. Fray
Pvt. F. J. Fuentes Jr.
Pvt. J. D. Gonzales Jr.
Pvt. I. N. Gronseth
Pvt. J. M. Guevara
Pvt. C. Q. Gutierrez
Pfc. T. J. Haney
Pvt. S. J. Harris
Pfc. B. S. Hartel
Pvt. S. M. Hawkins
Pfc. J. E. Herridge
Pvt. J. L. Hoaglund
Pvt. E. D. Holiday
Pvt. D. A. Huhta
Pfc. D. J. Hurd
Pvt. R. V. Hurley
Pvt. K. T. Hyndman
Pfc. S. Jones
Pvt. J. A. Jonesbrown
Pvt. R. L. Kauffman
*Pfc. W. F. Kelshaw
*Pfc. L. Kennedy
Pfc. A. D. Koback
Pfc. M. D. Koch
Pvt. T. J. Kolls
Pvt. S. C. Kong
Pvt. C. A. Lamoureux
Pfc. J. R. Lang
Pfc. J. S. Lay
Pfc. A. L. Lee
Pvt. J. H. Leiding
Pvt. E. L. Leiter
Pvt. J. T. Lindsey

Pvt. R. S. Lobato
Pvt. D. M. Lopez
Pvt. B. J. Lunsford
Pvt. J. F. Mendoza
Pfc. N. L. Mitchell
Pvt. A. A. Padilla
Pvt. T. M. Schneider
Pvt. T. B. Schuette
Pvt. M. B. Vanlanen
Pfc. M. S. Wagner
Pvt. J. F. Zumdome

PLATOON 3244

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. F. Madrigal Jr.
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. C. Montalvo
Staff Sgt. D. A. Polanco

Pvt. R. Artega
Pfc. J. W. Barker
Pvt. J. L. Base
Pvt. R. M. Becerra
Pfc. G. E. Beck
Pvt. D. M. Belcher
Pvt. C. N. Bittick
Pvt. J. V. Blum
Pvt. E. S. Breiten
*Pfc. A. J. Bruce
*Pfc. J. E. Burt
Pvt. C. M. Caldera
Pvt. M. Carrillo
Pfc. R. Carrillo
Pvt. R. G. Carson
Pfc. I. A. Castro
Pvt. E. N. Cohen
Pvt. L. A. Cordero
Pvt. N. S. Dalrymple
Pvt. B. J. David
Pvt. D. J. Davis
Pvt. E. R. Del Rio
Pvt. S. De LaTorre
Pfc. A. Diaz
Pfc. P. J. Dooley
*Pfc. C. A. Dorsey
Pvt. D. K. Duffield
Pvt. R. M. Dyson
Pvt. C. C. Esparza
Pfc. D. A. Faulk
Pvt. S. C. Douglas-Ferraro
Pvt. E. E. Galan
Pvt. A. Garcia
Pvt. G. A. Garrido
Pfc. T. A. Gayson
Pfc. A. A. Genereaux
Pvt. J. Gomez
Pvt. M. Gomez
Pvt. J. N. Gonzalez
Pvt. L. G. Gonzalez
Pfc. B. A. Kurtzman
Pvt. T. W. Gray
Pvt. T. J. Harrison
*Pfc. O. C. Heath
Pvt. J. J. Hernandez
Pvt. M. Hernandez
Pfc. M. A. Hernandez
Pvt. A. Hosokawa
Pvt. L. F. Humphrey
Pvt. D. K. Johnson
Pvt. A. Kurtzman
Pfc. M. A. La Gesse
Pvt. F. A. Lenga
Pvt. E. F. Lewis
Pvt. A. B. Locke
Pfc. J. A. Lopez
*Pfc. R. W. Malcolm
Pvt. C. M. Marsik
Pvt. S. A. Mathis
Pvt. A. V. McDougallchu
Pvt. N. E. McLaughlin
Pvt. S. W. McNichols
Pvt. B. A. Miller
Pfc. S. Montes Jr.
Pvt. S. C. Nakhonthap
Pvt. M. R. Nelson
Pfc. J. R. Orlich
Pvt. A. Pakman

Pfc. K. K. Pham
*Pfc. J. F. Pursley
Pfc. M. A. Ridenhour
Pvt. D. Thouk
Pfc. T. J. Tipton
Pvt. T. A. Whitmire
Pvt. C. D. Williams

SERIES 3245

Series Commander
Capt. S. E. McCann
Chief Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. B. T. Jacobs

PLATOON 3245

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. K. A. Levingston
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. J. Binder
Staff Sgt. A. Rios

Pfc. J. A. Agpaa
Pfc. P.V. Alaska
Pfc. B. J. Alldis
Pfc. R. J. Barron
Pfc. Z. L. Benson
Pvt. A. R. Blumer
Pvt. T. J. Brooksher
Pfc. D. M. Brown
*Pfc. A. I. Brydon
Pfc. F. D. Carter
Pvt. H. P. Castro Jr.
Pfc. N. W. Chappell
Pvt. C. L. Clark
Pfc. V. G. Corbitt
Pvt. M. B. Corpuz
Pvt. L. A. Crespin
Pfc. F. J. Davila
Pvt. P. R. Demro
Pfc. K. C. DeRego
Pvt. C. A. Dingman
Pvt. T. J. Dunn
*Pfc. D. J. Enderle
Pvt. J. D. Felixsoto
Pvt. R. C. Flatt
Pvt. M. A. Frank
Pvt. W. Galindo
Pvt. T. A. Garcia
Pvt. T. L. Garcia
Pvt. J. M. Garica-Perez
Pvt. B. L. Gaskins
Pvt. C. L. Gilgen
Pvt. E. L. Gonzales
Pvt. J. D. Gonzales
Pvt. S. Hainrick
Pfc. C. M. Headrick
Pvt. J. J. Hernandez
Pfc. S. P. Hoffman
Pfc. C. T. Holbert
Pvt. M. L. Holder
Pvt. J. D. Holding
Pvt. J. L. Horton
Pvt. K. D. Huerta
Pfc. J. O. Ibasco
Pvt. S. M. Jach
Pfc. A. J. Jacobs
Pvt. J. R. Jenkins
Pvt. J. Jones
Pfc. G. W. Jones
Pvt. B. C. Juarez
Pfc. J. Juarez
Pfc. D. W. Kelim
Pvt. C. Kimbro
Pfc. C. Lance
*Pfc. J. W. Lavezzi
Pvt. B. A. Lemay
Pvt. A. Lerma
Pvt. M. A. Lunsford
*Pfc. T. R. McDonald
Pfc. T. T. Miller
Pfc. C. A. Morris
Pvt. R. K. Nakaahiki
Pvt. C. B. Palmer
Pvt. J. D. Palmer
*Pfc. R. F. Perez
Pvt. C. B. Piteck
*Pfc. Z. T. Poe
Pfc. J. M. Pritt

Pfc. H. P. Quach
Pfc. D. S. Reddell
Pfc. B. M. Rezeski
Pvt. E. B. Smith
Pvt. F. A. Thompson

PLATOON 3246

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. B. Lee
Drill Instructors
Sgt. J. J. Garcia
Sgt. B. L. Wade

Pvt. R. W. Border
Pvt. Z. A. Butz
Pvt. K. G. Casmer
Pvt. J. C. Collins
Pvt. M. D. Currier
*Pfc. S. D. Dreyer
Pfc. K. M. Dugas
Pvt. D. M. Espinoza
Pfc. A. Figueroa
Pvt. C. T. Franz
Pvt. P. A. Martinez-Lopez
Pvt. R. R. Frodin
Pvt. O. Gonzalez
Pvt. D. F. Hill
Pvt. D. C. Hernandez
Pvt. Z. Z. Hinojosa
Pvt. C. M. Hooker
Pvt. E. Huerta
Pvt. M. C. Hurley
Pvt. S. M. Isom
Pvt. D. Jo
Pvt. R. A. Kim
Pvt. S. M. Krus
Pvt. A. L. Lee
Pfc. S. M. Marett Jr.
Pvt. M. J. Mathews
Pfc. A. S. McGinnis
Pvt. J. W. McLean
Pvt. J. P. Mendoza
Pvt. J. P. Messer
Pvt. S. Meszaros
Pvt. P. J. Monelo
Pfc. C. F. Moua
Pvt. M. Roberts
Pvt. J. C. Newton
Pvt. J. C. Ochoa Jr.
Pvt. J. M. Oikion
Pvt. T. Orozco
Pvt. W. R. Parker
Pfc. D. Perez-Lopez
Pvt. J. W. Peterson
Pvt. A. L. Pettis Jr.
Pvt. P. L. Phetsavahn
Pvt. O. Powell
Pvt. M. O. Prasse
Pvt. M. A. Pratt
Pvt. W. K. Racela
Pvt. N. F. Reed
Pvt. J. G. Reeder Jr.
Pvt. J. J. Rivas
Pvt. S. J. Rodriguez
Pvt. E. J. Sausen
Pvt. K. J. Schierland
Pvt. L. E. Schirmer
Pfc. S. B. Sciscoe
Pvt. S. J. Selvey
*Pfc. G. R. Shores
Pfc. M. D. Skidmore
Pvt. C. O. Sparks
Pfc. G. S. Storhoff
Pfc. T. J. Sullivan
Pvt. D. E. Townsend
Pvt. J. Trihn
Pfc. B. O. Valenzuela
Pfc. Y. Vang
Pvt. F. J. Vargas
Pvt. J. M. Vickers
*Pfc. R. R. Vieira
Pvt. A. R. Visscher
*Pfc. J. D. Walker
Pfc. D. C. Wang
Pvt. B. M. Watson
Pvt. C. C. White
Pvt. D. J. Wood
Pfc. K. J. Wood

*Pfc. B. Yang
Pvt. B. D. Youell
Pfc. H. P. Zepeda

PLATOON 3247

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. W. Algarin-Mendoza
Drill Instructors
Sgt. R. E. Johnson II
Sgt. C. R. Thaxton

Pvt. J. M. Ball
Pfc. N. R. Borja
Pfc. R. S. Cabral
*Pfc. D. K. Cain
Pvt. K. Downs
*Pfc. D. F. Hill
*Pfc. A. W. Hogue
*Pfc. A. A. Longo
Pfc. A. A. Lopez
Pvt. C. Q. Lou
Pvt. R. W. Martin
Pvt. P. Martinez
Pvt. P. A. Martinez-Lopez
Pfc. A. W. Marx
Pvt. C. Masang
Pvt. D. J. Moore
Pvt. J. C. Moore
Pvt. I. Moreno
Pfc. A. I. Mulherron
Pvt. L. J. Myers
Pvt. M. T. Nalls
Pvt. J. K. Nassir
Pfc. J. D. Needham
Pvt. E. Ortiz
Pfc. D. L. Osburn
Pvt. W. E. Pineda-Diaz
Pvt. J. D. Potts
Pfc. K. E. Priest
Pfc. A. C. Prince
Pfc. D. J. Puliti
Pvt. P. G. Raderstorf
Pfc. S. M. Ramirez Jr.
Lance Cpl. E. Ramos III
Pvt. K. S. Ramsey
Pfc. R. D. Rieger
Pvt. M. Roberts
Pvt. W. C. Roden
Pvt. J. B. Romero
Pvt. J. A. Rosales
Pvt. J. V. Rosales-Guevara
Pvt. J. Rosenthal
Pvt. J. Rubio
Pfc. A. A. Ryan
Pfc. R. F. Sablan
Pvt. C. W. Sandeen
Pvt. W. Sawicki
Pvt. D. J. Seschillie
Pvt. M. W. Sewell
Pvt. K. B. Shannon
Pvt. B. J. Shoemaker
Pfc. M. C. Shrader
Pvt. G. P. Sible
Pvt. M. L. Skjolaas
Pvt. B. A. Smith
Pvt. G. Smith
Pvt. K. E. Schirmer
Pfc. R. A. Soto-Bustamante
Pvt. C. Spezzia
Pvt. J. M. Spurgeon
Pfc. S. M. Stanard
Pvt. C. J. Stefan
*Pfc. D. R. Stueben
Pvt. M. K. Sullivan
*Pfc. T. D. Szarenski
Pfc. K. M. Taylor
Pfc. B. Z. Thompson
Pvt. J. L. Thorpe
Pvt. A. S. Tilipao
Pvt. J. J. Tjoelker
Pvt. S. C. Varley
Pvt. D. J. Vasquez
Pvt. A. L. Vines
Pvt. W. E. Weston
Pvt. Z. A. Williams
Pvt. C. R. Wilson
Pvt. K. R. Wilson
Pvt. E. T. Wormer

Pvt. N. Xiong
Pfc. M. D. Zollman

PLATOON 3248

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. A. Ramirez
Drill Instructors
Sgt. E. Ramos
Sgt. H. Sanchez

Pvt. K. R. Cowen
Pvt. E. M. Cruz
Pfc. M. C. Goldmann
Pvt. G. W. Kopponen
Pvt. N. J. Madison
Pvt. J. R. Magness
*Pfc. D. F. Hill
Pvt. S. M. McQuery
Pvt. D. J. Mecham
Pfc. L. S. Miller
Pvt. P. J. Moody
Pfc. S. D. Murphy
Pvt. A. L. Nevarez
Pvt. A. C. Nortrup
Pvt. C. P. O'Keefe
Pvt. A. M. Olin
Pvt. A. M. Orr
Pvt. R. Ortega
Pfc. J. C. Ortiz-Benitez
Pfc. J. H. Pae
Pvt. I. W. Papworth
Pvt. J. D. Perez
Pvt. N. Perez
Pvt. B. A. Peterhansen
Pfc. M. A. Pinto-Nunez
Pvt. J. Popa
Pfc. D. A. Priest
Pvt. C. J. Quiroz
*Pfc. D. A. Ramirez
Pvt. B. B. Rathjen
Pvt. R. Renteria
Pfc. S. V. Reynolds
Pvt. W. C. Rice
Pvt. J. H. Rittner
Pvt. C. E. Roberts
Pvt. A. M. Romero
Pfc. C. L. Roussel
Pfc. M. T. Ryan
Pfc. A. M. Sampson
Pfc. D. Sanchez-
Delossantos
Pvt. A. Santiago
Pvt. C. J. Sapp
Pvt. J. Saucedo
Pfc. J. M. Saylor
Pvt. M. S. Selby
Pvt. K. Shipley
Pvt. T. R. Silva
Pvt. R. E. Simpson
Pvt. V. R. Slater
Pvt. F. M. Soares
Pvt. J. G. Sofyan
Pfc. H. T. Soriano
*Pfc. C. Spargur
Pvt. B. C. Stephens
Pfc. T. L. Stern
Pfc. E. W. Stewart
Pvt. R. C. Stinson
Pvt. J. M. Stull
Pvt. J. Trambley
Pvt. T. A. Turner
Pvt. J. E. Vasquez
Pfc. M. W. Victor
*Pfc. M. A. Vinson
*Pfc. C. J. Vore
Pvt. J. A. Waddy
*Pfc. C. J. Wallace
Pfc. R. W. Walters
Pvt. B. D. Webb
Pfc. G. Williams
Pfc. R. C. Woolston
*Pfc. J. J. Yang
Pvt. M. A. Yoder
Pvt. D. A. Zorilla

* Denotes meritorious promotion



Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Bruce, MCRD San Diego Drill Instructor School, signals to a recruit to give the order to cross the rope-bridge obstacle during a shadowing exercise with Company C Sept. 17. Shadowing exercises are used to train future Marine Corps drill instructors. Cpl. Carrie C. Ruiz/Chevron

Part 2 of 2 – part series

The future of the Marine Corps begins here

BY CPL. CARRIE C. RUIZ
Chevron staff

“These recruits are entrusted to my care. I will train them to the best of my ability. I will develop them into smartly disciplined, physically fit, basically trained Marines, thoroughly indoctrinated in love of Corps and country. I will demand of them, and demonstrate by my own example, the highest standards of personal conduct, morality and professional skill.”

This Drill Instructor Creed is ingrained into students’ minds at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Drill Instructor School. The students repeat the oath before every academic class in preparation for the day when they recite it in front of their first recruit platoon.

“I became a drill instructor to set the example for the youth who are courageous enough to enlist in the Marine Corps during a time of war,” said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Bruce, drill instructor, Company B.

“I believe that with my background in Crash, Fire and Rescue, and my experiences during Operation Iraqi Freedom, it would make me a good role model for our young men,” said Bruce, who graduated from Drill Instructor School Sept. 24 as the class honorman.

Although Bruce enjoyed his primary military occupational specialty, he said that he sometimes lost sight of what it was to be a Marine. When

Bruce arrived at the school house, he was brought back into reality.

“There is a rumor that circulates throughout the Fleet Marine Force that Drill Instructor School is like the fourth phase of recruit training, when in all actuality it is not,” said 1st Sgt. Kenneth Agee, first sergeant, Drill Instructor School.

“Our mission is to evaluate and train selected non-commissioned officers, staff noncommissioned officers and commissioned officers for duty as drill instructors and series commanders.”

The Lakeland, Fla., native added that the school is a leadership academy where Marines can further hone their leadership skills and command presence.

The depot graduates four classes of new drill instructors a year, and each class is 11 and a half weeks long. Classes are composed of 80 to 100 Marines and service members of foreign military forces.

The students are trained by 11 seasoned drill instructors in physical fitness, academics, leadership, close-order drill and recruit training standard operating procedures.

Students usually begin each training day before dawn with either formation runs, obstacle courses or the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program to ensure they are physically fit enough to endure the hardships of being a drill instructor. They receive the same physical fitness

training as recruits do.

However, Drill Instructor School is not only about being physically strong. The students also receive more than 20 hours of academic instruction regarding boot camp. Students learn about recruits’ daily routines, administrative matters, medical and dental treatments, or anything else pertinent to the recruit training Standard Operating Procedures, said to Gunnery Sgt. Francisco Rivera, SOP instructor and squad instructor, Drill Instructor School.

Rivera, a Tucson, Ariz., native, said that it is important for Drill Instructor School students to fully understand the SOP for boot camp because they contain strict guidelines that ensure recruits receive the proper training in a safe environment.

When the students are not in the classroom or on the PT field, they practice close-order drill, which is used to instill instant willingness and obedience to orders in recruits and to build unit camaraderie. It is the drill instructors’ duty to instill these traits in recruits as soon as they arrive on the depot.

Students are evaluated on their ability to perform close-order drill while at the school house. They also undergo several uniform inspections while in training.

Another important part of training is called bird dogging, which is when students shadow drill instructors in a recruit training environment to get first-hand experience in

working with recruits.

The students observe drill instructors through their daily routine while on the depot and during field training at Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The students are assigned to Crucible squads where endure the entire Crucible with the drill instructors.

“The students yell and run

around just as a drill instructor would, the only difference is that they have not received their campaign covers,” said Agee.

“I think it takes patience, determination and a strong desire to be successful during drill instructor duty,” said Agee. “It is a stressful and physically demanding duty, but also extremely rewarding.”



First Sgt. Kenneth Agee, first sergeant of Drill Instructor School, top, and Master Sgt. Choi Won Gyu, Republic of Korea Army, descend the slide-for-life obstacle during a confidence course exercise Aug. 24. Cpl. Carrie C. Ruiz/Chevron